

**CONFIDENTIAL.]**

[No. 36 of 1896.

# REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th September 1896.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Calcutta	... 5,000	29th August, 1896.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	... 20,000	1st September, 1896.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	... 800	28th August, 1896.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	... About 4,000	29th ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	... 2,500	29th ditto.	
6	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto	... ....	29th ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	... About 500	26th ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto	... 3,000	28th ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	... 3,000	29th ditto.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	... 800	31st ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	... About 350	1st to 3rd September, 1896.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	... 1,000	30th and 31st August and 1st to 3rd September, 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	... 1,250	1st September, 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	... 200	28t and 31st August, and 1st to 3rd September, 1896.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	... Read by 3,000	26th, 28th and 29th August and 2nd September, 1896.	
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	... 2,000	20th and 27th August, 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	... 10,000	31st August, 1896.	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	.....	24th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	<b>URDU.</b>	<b>CALCUTTA—concl'd.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Calcutta ...	310		
2	" General and Gauhariasfi "	Ditto ...	330	31st August, 1893.	
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>BURDWAN DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	" Bankura Darpan "	Bankura ...	450		
2	" Ulubaria Darpan "	Ulubaria ...	700	16th ditto.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Burdwan Sanjivani "	Burdwan ...	About 250	25th ditto.	
2	" Chinsura Vartavaha "	Chinsura ...	550	30th ditto.	
3	" Education Gazette "	Hooghly ...	1,145		
	<i>Monthly.</i>	<b>PRESIDENCY DIVISION.</b>			
1	" Ghosak " ...	Khulna ...	350		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Murshidabad Hitaishi "	Murshidabad ...	826	26th ditto.	
2	" Murshidabad Pratinidhi "	Berhampore ...	200		
3	" Pratikar " ...	Ditto ...	603	28th ditto.	
	<b>URIYA.</b>	<b>ORISSA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	" Brahma "	Cuttack ...	160		
2	" Indradhanu "	Ditto ...	.....		
3	" Shikhabandhu "	Ditto ...	.....		
4	" Utkalprabha "	Mayurbunj ...	.....		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Sambalpur Hitaishini "	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		
2	" Samvad Vahiika "	Balasore ...	190		
3	" Uriya and Navasamvad "	Ditto ...	309		
4	" Utkal Dipika "	Cuttack ...	450		
	<b>HINDI.</b>	<b>PATNA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	" Bihar Bandhu "	Bankipur ...	600		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Aryavarta " ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	29th ditto.	
	<b>URDU.</b>				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Akhbar-i-Al Punch "	Bankipur ...	500		
2	" Gaya Punch " ...	Gaya ...	400	24th ditto.	

Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.  
This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>RAJSHAHI DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindu Ranjika"	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195	26th August, 1896.	
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash"	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180		
	<b>HINDI.</b>				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	500		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>DACCA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Kasipur Nivasi"	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Charn Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	900		
2	"Dacca Prakash"	Dacca ...	2,400	3rd and 24th August, 1896.	
3	"Saraswat Patra"	Do. ...	About 440	30th August, 1896.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	240	29th ditto. 27th ditto.	
	<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca ...	500	31st ditto.	
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>CHITTAGONG DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Prakash"	Comilla ...	700		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120	10th and 31st July and 21st August, 1896.	
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>ASSAM.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	Sravan, second fortnight, 1803 B.S.	

## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hublul Mateen* of the 24th August declares all news regarding the outbreak of fresh disturbances within the Turkish Empire as entirely baseless, and as being mere creation of the brains of the politicians who are hostile to the Turkish Government. The Sultan, it is said, is engaged in improving the internal administration of his empire, and has recently ordered the construction of a fort in order to check a possible entrance of enemies through the Dardanelles.

HUBLUL MATEEN,  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Sansodhini* of the 21st August draws the attention of the District Magistrate of Chittagong to the illegal conduct of the Reserve Police Sub-Inspector, Narayan Singh, in making constables, some of whom are high caste Hindus, clear jungle on the parade ground in Chittagong. The following is a list of the constables who were employed in this work:—

SANSODHINI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

Umesh Chandra Chatterji	...	Writer-constable.
Akhil Chandra Ganguli	...	Constable.
Kumudbandhu Chakravarti	...	Ditto.
Brindaban Kamarkar	...	Writer-constable.
Nabin Chandra Bhaumik	...	Constable.
Basanta Kumar Das	...	Ditto.
Dinabandhu Das	...	Ditto.
Durgadas Datta	...	Writer-constable.
Chandra Kumar De	...	Constable.
Fazal Rahman	...	Writer-constable.
Nabin Chandra Barua	...	Constable.
Gurudas Barua	...	Ditto.
Ganga Charan Lagnacharyya	...	Ditto.
Kailas Chandra De	...	Ditto.
Giris Chandra Datta	...	Ditto.
Baikuntha Nath Dobe	...	Ditto.

3. The *Charu Mihir* of the 24th August is not satisfied with Mr. Risley's reply to Babu Surendranath's question regarding the protection of women in Mymensingh. The number of cases in Mymensingh in which women have been forcibly violated by *badmashes* is greater even than the number of murder cases which have of late occurred in Barisal. But whilst every murder case comes to the notice of the authorities, few cases of outrage on female modesty come to the knowledge of the public. In the one set of cases there is only loss of life, in the other there is loss of honour and social position. Which is the graver evil of the two? It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will adopt special measures both for checking the prevalence of murder by gun-shot in Backergunge and for the prevention of outrage upon female modesty in Mymensingh.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

4. The same paper says that on the night of the 18th August last, a dacoity was committed by thirty or thirty-five men in the house of one Golam Hosain Shaikh, of Rupnarain Kura, within the jurisdiction of the Nalitabari police-station in the Mymensingh district, and a large sum of money and property of considerable value were taken away. A police investigation is being held; but it is not believed that it will result in the apprehension of the dacoits. In the course of the current year a large number of dacoities by land and water have been committed in this district, but not in a single case have the offenders been brought to justice. Police investigation, in fact, now-a-days does no good, but inflicts pecuniary loss on complainants, who have to supply the investigating officers with food. It is the inefficiency of the police which is the cause of the present recrudescence of crime.

CHARU MIHIR.

5. A correspondent of the same paper complains that a certain Musalman of Bandia, within the jurisdiction of the Guffargaon thana in the Mymensingh district, illegally extorts money from the residents of the place, and with

CHARU MIHIR.

Illegal extortion by a Musalman in the Mymensingh district.

the help of the police commits oppression on all who oppose him. He has no taluks, but he still keeps about a dozen and a half sardars in his pay and has a cutcherry on the bank of the Miru river. He employs his men to extort ten to fifteen rupees from the men of every boat which passes that way. He also forcibly levies a regular fee on all wood which is brought down from the Malikbari hill and is carried by his cutcherry. Within the last few years seven or eight murders have been committed within the jurisdiction of this thana; but not one of these cases has been properly investigated owing to this man bribing the police. The Magistrate has only to make a little enquiry in order to be convinced of the truth of this statement.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 28th, 1896.

6. The *Hitavadi* of the 28th August has received a report of a terrible police oppression at Domjur, in the Howrah district. It is to the following effect:—Hearing that

Police oppression in the Howrah district. gambling was being practised on the occasion of the local *barayari puja*, the Domjur police went to apprehend the gamblers on Saturday, the 22nd instant. The gamblers, it is said, beat the policemen. At 4 A.M. on that day the police again appeared on the spot accompanied by a large number of *lathials* and Musalmans, and began oppressing the people of the place. The police forcibly entered into the houses of 12 Brahmans, and did not forbear to oppress the female inmates. The treatment which was received by females in the houses in which there were no males can be easily imagined. The Musalmans did not even shrink from polluting *thakurbaris* (places where idols are kept) by entering into them.

The matter did not end here. One of the persons oppressed, Babu Chandrakanta Mukerji, came to Howrah to complain to the Magistrate. But the Domjur police apprehended him in court, and took him to Domjur, beating him all the way. A relative of Babu Chandrakanta submitted a petition to the Magistrate enquiring on the authority of what warrant the police had arrested Babu Chandrakanta in that way. The Magistrate has not yet been able to give any reply. If the police arrested Babu Chandrakanta without a warrant, it would be no exaggeration to say that anarchy prevails in the country. It is hoped that the Magistrate will, for the sake of Government's prestige, enquire into the matter. The District Superintendent of Police, too, it is hoped, will punish the guilty policemen.

HITAVADI.

7. It appears to the same paper that even in Calcutta cooly-recruiters take people by force to cooly depôts along public roads

Forcible cooly-recruiting in Calcutta. and in broad day light. The other day three

cooly-recruiters, Sadasiv Pal, Sekh Keder Bux and Sekh Elahi, attempted to force one Asutosh Manna into a carriage in Old Court House Street, in order to take him to a cooly dépôt. This having attracted the notice of Gangacharan De, a detective, the men have been prosecuted.

HITAVADI.

8. The same paper says that oppression by police officers has not diminished in the least, and will not diminish so long as guilty police officers are not adequately punished.

Guilty police officers not punished. But such officers are not punished at present. Two constables of the Bikram police-station, in the Patna district, Gopal Singh and Kismat Singh, were witnesses in a certain criminal case in the local Judge's court. The Judge remarked in his decision that these constables had given false evidence, and yet neither of them has been punished. On the contrary, Kismat Singh has been promoted to be head-constable of the Maharajganj police-station.

HITAVADI.

9. A correspondent of the same paper says that on the 9th July last the dead body of one Anukul Chandra Ghosh, of

Murders in the Serampore subdivision of the Hooghly district.

village Raghunathpur, in the Serampore subdivision in the Hooghly district, was found in a sitting posture on the branch of a tree, his head being attached by a *chadar* to a higher branch. From the progress of decomposition it was easy to see that the man must have died three or four days previously. The Police Sub-Inspector of Chanditala came to investigate the case, and after taking the deposition of Anukul's elder brother and his grandfather's brother, Umacharan Ghosh, who said that Anukul was in a distracted state of mind and had had disagreements with his wife, reported the case as one of suicide. This investigation,

however, not having proved satisfactory to Anukul's father-in-law, he prayed to the Magistrate of Serampore for a fresh investigation, and Police Inspector Babu Pyarilal Niyogi was thereupon deputed to make one. He suspects the case to be one of murder, but has not yet been able to trace the murderer. A woman was lately murdered at Janai within the same subdivision. The murderer in this case also has not yet been traced. These things are not certainly creditable to the local police.

10. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 28th August complains that a *badmash* of the name of Myathra Thaoya is committing crimes in Halisahar in the 24-Parganas district with impunity. About a year ago he

committed a daring theft in the house of the late Kasinath Mukharji, of Bajarpurha, during the absence of his widow. He was prosecuted, but let off without any punishment. Some time ago the ruffian waylaid a gentleman, thrashed him and robbed him of five rupees. In that case too he was not convicted. He has now grown defiant and has become a terror to the villagers. The local police should keep a sharp eye on this ruffian.

11. Referring to the cooly case in which three recruiters attempted to forcibly take a man to a cooly dépôt under the pretext of giving him an employment (see para-

graph 7), the *Bangavasi* of the 29th August observes that the case reveals a miserable state of things in the administration of the country. If these things can take place in broad daylight in a busy thoroughfare under the very nose of the Viceroy's palace, it will be no wonder if the recruiters in future abduct women from their homes in the mufassal for the purpose of sending them as coolies to Assam tea-gardens.

12. The *Navayuga* of the 29th August asks why in the two cooly cases in which the Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah ordered

the coolies, as regards some, to be sent back to their homes in Purulia, and as regards the rest to be sent to the custody of the recruit's brother in Calcutta, the *arkatis* were allowed to go unpunished. Is it not a crime to entice away people from their homes by false representations?

13. The *Sanjivani* of the 29th August has the following:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie is the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and Mr. Bolton, the friend of the poor, is his Chief Secretary. Will not slave-trade be abolished even under their rule?

So long recruiters had carried on their nefarious practices in Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas. They have now grown so bold as to force men into entering into contract as coolies in broad daylight and in the very heart of the metropolis. One Ashutosh Manna, of Khajuruti in the Hooghly district, came to Calcutta in search of employment. All his efforts to secure employment having failed, he made up his mind to return to his native village, and with this object in view came to the Armenian ghat on the 24th August and purchased a ticket for passage home in the office of the River Steam Navigation Company. There he was pounced upon by three recruiters, Sadasib Pal, Saikh Kader Bux and Saikh Elahi. They decoyed him under the pretext of giving him a post with a pay of six rupees a month, and took him to Old Court House Street. Fortunately, however, Sergeant Ganga Charan De, of the Detective Police, was at this time passing down that road. In front of the eastern gate of the Telegraph Office he saw two men pulling a third man by the hand. This man, however, was crying aloud and trying his best to escape. In reply to Mr. De's question he said that the recruiters were trying to force him into cooly service and taking him to a cooly dépôt quite against his will. Having ascertained that Ashu was willing to lodge a complaint against the recruiters, and having also ascertained the names of the latter, Mr. De took them all to the Waterloo Street thana. It transpired during the enquiry that two of the three men mentioned above were recruiters in the service of Richard Henry and Company, of Convent Road, Entally, and the third man was a registered recruiter in the service of Umanath Lahiri, of 51-5, Akhil Mistry's Lane. One of the three *arkatis*, it also came out, was an old woman-stealer (*দাসী চোর*). The police sent up all the three accused for trial. The case came on for hearing in the Court of the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, on the 25th August.

SAMAY,  
Aug. 28th, 1896.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

NAVAYUGA,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

The accused were defended by two pleaders, but Ashu, being a poor man, had no one to defend him. The case is *sub judice*, and we should not comment upon it at present.

We refer to another cooly case (see Report on Native Papers for week ending 29th August, 1896, paragraph 8). In this case, the Inspector subsequently took Beni to the cooly dépôt. In a cell in this dépôt he found Ram Chandra crying in despair and expressing his unwillingness to go to Assam. Seeing his brother he cried aloud. The Inspector rescued him from the hands of the recruiters. We thank the Inspector for his kindly saving a poor peasant from a life of slavery, and we forget the ill-treatment our representative met at his hands. We have sent Beni and Ram Chandra home at our expense.

Last week a few recruiters were forcibly carrying away a Sonthal and his wife to Calcutta. At the Poradah station a student of the Medical College saw the Sonthals crying and refusing to go with the *arkatis*. He took the side of the poor Sonthals and foiled the machinations of the recruiters with the help of another gentleman. The Sonthals were brought to our office, and we have now sent them home at our expense.

A correspondent writes as follows from Mihijam in the Sonthal Parganas district:—A few days ago some recruiters enmeshed a woman name Sani Karhani and a man of the name of Gangna Dhopa. Sani has a child of four months, who has been left behind. The poor child would have died but for a kind-hearted woman of the name of Thakur Mani Karhani, who undertook to nurse it. Many cooly dépôts have been opened in the Jamtara subdivision of the Sonthal Parganas district. These cooly dépôts have made the honour of women extremely unsafe. The tale is certainly a heart-rending one. Will such things be allowed to take place under British rule? The Lieutenant-Governor is a God-fearing man. Will he allow innocent and helpless men and women to be in this way banished from their country? Cooly-recruiters have nearly depopulated Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas, and have now begun to extend their nefarious practices into the Bengal villages. Cooly oppression is not rare even in towns like Calcutta, Midnapore and Burdwan. In the name of poor and helpless men and women we beg the Lieutenant-Governor to put an end to these acts of oppression.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

14. The same paper observes that quarrel has broken out in the Khan family of Karatia in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. Many police cases have cropped out of this domestic quarrel. One of these cases was lately tried by the District Judge of Mymensingh. One Hosain Beg was the accused in this case. Mr. Jackson defended him. The Judge has acquitted the prisoner, and observed in his judgment that the whole case is false and that the account of the incident at Basail is without any foundation. He has advised the defence to prosecute the Sub-Inspector Ramjay Kaviraj for perjury. It is this police whom the Lieutenant-Governor has by a notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* specially entrusted with the task of keeping the peace in several parts of the country. The authorities should know that the police often break the peace instead of maintaining it. The Karatia zamindar family would not have been drawn into so many police cases if the Tangail police had been honest and good.

SANJIVANI.

15. Referring to the notification published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 26th August regarding the suppression of murder by firearms in the Backergunge district, the same paper observes that the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt been actuated by an honest intention in issuing the notification, but it is extremely doubtful whether the measures contemplated in the notification will put down murder in the district. In the opinion of the writer, murders are committed, not by those who take out licenses, but by those who use firearms without a license. Under these circumstances, harder measures should be taken to put down the crime in Backergunge. Where the police is honest and efficient it is easy to put down murder. But the fact is that the *badmashes* who commit these murders are often protected by the police, and honest people are often ill-treated when they go to the police to complain against these *badmashes*. Murder in Backergunge will be easily put down if the Lieutenant-Governor can send honest police officers there.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Bari-sal notification

16. Referring to the posting of a punitive police in the villages of Karatia, Nagarpur and Binanai in the Mymensingh district, Punitive police in Tangail.

the same paper observes that seeing that the intention of Government in taking this step is to protect the people of these villages against their oppression by the zamindars' men, it is difficult to understand why they also should be made to pay its cost. The posting of a punitive police is not due to any fault on the part of the villagers. The Government does not say that the people of these villages are turbulent or that they have disturbed the peace. Why then should they be compelled to pay the punitive police? Let the Government realise the cost of the punitive police from the people who have offended against the law and disturbed the public peace. But let not innocent people be oppressed and harassed.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

17. Panaulla Chaudhuri, observes the same paper, is a zamindar of Dinajpur. His son, Mahatabuddin, was in June last

The Dinajpur police. charged with murder. The accused made himself

scarce, and the police produced evidence to show that the father had a hand in the murder. Panaulla was released on bail amounting to twenty thousand rupees. The Magistrate then ordered the police to attach the movable property of the father for the offence committed by the son. The police at once occupied the house and attached even the articles of food. Panaulla was committed to the Sessions in due course, but has been honourably acquitted. He has, however, completely broken down under his sufferings and privations and mental anxiety. He is not expected to long survive the shock. And it was under the orders of the Magistrate that the police has reduced him to these straits. In his judgment the Sessions Judge thus comments upon the conduct of the Sub-Inspector Ramdayal Mullik:—"He ought to be severely punished for his laxity." Mahatabuddin could not have escaped if he had properly done his duty. The Sub-Inspector helped the accused in making his escape. All these instances of police oppression are no doubt due to the fusion of judicial and executive functions.

SANJIVANI

18. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* of the 30th August says that Murders in the Backergunge a large number of persons have been, and are being, district. killed by gun-shot in the Backergunge district.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Aug. 30th, 1896.

The majority of the victims, zamindars or zamindars' officers, are killed by their tenants. The time chosen for the commission of the diabolical crime is that of taking the night-meal. A man sits down to his meal in all imaginable security, but bang comes a shot, and passing through his breast or other limb lays him low. The people about are too busy with the wounded man to be able to catch or identify the murderer. The murderers run, therefore, little risk of detection. Even if they are detected and placed on their trial, they are acquitted for want of satisfactory evidence. The taking away of guns will not put a stop to these murders, for the bamboo tree cannot be extirpated in this country, and pieces of bamboo wound round and round with rope and charged with powder and pieces of iron are being made to do duty for guns in a most effective manner. One Rajendra Kumar Thakurata, a resident of Purvabari, Banaripara, and a zamindar's officer, was lately killed in this way while eating his night-meal.

Another diabolical instrument made use of is a piece of hollow bamboo containing a venomous serpent. One end of this instrument is placed on the bed of the intended victim, and the enclosed serpent is then worried into biting him. A case of murder effected in this fashion was tried in the Patuakhali subdivision.

The large number of detectives who have been deputed to Backergunge have failed to put a stop to these murders. The people of a village indeed know who among them are *badmashes*, but the lower classes among the villagers are too much in fear of the *badmashes* to venture to report against them, while the more prominent villagers are induced by bribes to remain silent. This fear and cupidity must be overcome if the district is not to become a scene of dire anarchy.

The police itself seems to be afraid of the *badmashes*. The correspondent lately found a fierce-looking *badmash* in the custody of a strongly-built constable. The way in which this constable spoke to the *badmash* showed that he was afraid of the man he had taken into custody.

SOM PRakash,  
Aug. 31st, 1896.

19. The *Som Prakash* of the 31st August says that at evening on the 22nd August last the Howrah police went to stop gambling which was going on in Domjur in connection with a *barayari* celebration, but it met with

opposition, and had to come back without being able to do anything. At midnight it returned to the place accompanied by a large number of *lathials* and some Musalmans, and not only heartlessly beat the gamblers, but committed severe oppression on people who lived about the place. The police even entered their zananas, and caused Musalmans to violate the sanctity of those rooms in their houses in which their gods were kept. One of the aggrieved persons, Babu Chandrakanta Mukharji, subsequently came to the Howrah Court for the purpose of lodging a complaint against the police. But he was severely beaten by the police within the court-room and in the presence of a large number of pleaders and mukhtars, and was tied and taken back to Domjur. A relative of Chandrakanta Babu's having applied to the District Magistrate to know for what offence and under whose warrant the police arrested that gentleman, the Magistrate replied that he knew nothing of the matter.

HITAISHI,  
Sept. 1st, 1896.

20. The *Hitaishi* of the 1st September writes as follows :—

*Gundanism* in certain quarters of Calcutta. Some time ago we drew the attention of the Calcutta police to oppressions committed by *gundas* and *badmashes* in the Sonagachi and Masjidbari

quarters of the town. Our writing attracted the notice of the police, and for a time the oppressions were kept in check. But as the authorities paid no heed to our suggestion about placing a European constable and some additional police in the quarter, there is *gundanism* again in that place. The murder which has been committed in the house of the prostitute Swarnabai proves that our suggestion ought to have been acted upon. One Bipin Bihari Datta, who was drunk, began to abuse the woman in the street. She ordered her durwans to beat him, and the durwans accordingly dragged Bipin into her house and beat him so severely that he has since expired. Bipin loudly cried—"bap-re, ma-re," and quite a row was created; still the police, whose timely assistance might have saved the man, was nowhere to be found.

#### (b) — Working of the Courts.

SANSODHINI,  
July 31st, 1896.

21. The *Sansodhini* of the 31st July has heard that Mr. Agasti, Magistrate of Noakhali, comes to his cutcherry only one day in the week, and that for a very short time. This seriously inconveniences both the amla and the public.

SANSODHINI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

22. The *Sansodhini* of the 21st August writes against the Deputy Magistrates of Chittagong as follows :—

- (1) On the 31st July last Mr. Anderson, District Magistrate of Chittagong, did not find any one of the ten or twelve Deputy Magistrates, now stationed at Sadar, present in court, even at 11-30 A.M.
- (2) The Magistrate should enquire into the quarrel which took place in open court a few days ago between two Deputy Magistrates.
- (3) Is it a fact that the Maulvi Saheb lately used disrespectful language to a respectable Musalman witness?
- (4) The other day, Maulvi Ashrafuddin sent to the Collectorate Librarian for a copy of the Civil List. The List being at the time with Mr. Dickson, could not be obtained. The Maulvi, however, abused the Librarian, and called upon him to explain why he had not sent the book. The Librarian represented the matter to Mr. Dickson, as the Magistrate was not in the office at the time; and Mr. Dickson asked Maulvi Ashrafuddin to explain what authority he had either to abuse the Librarian or to call for his explanation. Things like these are not expected from Deputy Magistrates.
- (5) The writer has heard serious charges against one or two Deputy Magistrates.

(6) The Deputy Magistrates at Chittagong consider the time during which they hold summary trials as their recreation time, and devote it to reading newspapers, making purchases, and gossiping, without attending to the examinations and cross-examinations and the pleaders' addresses.

(7) Some Deputy Magistrates behave improperly when a woman appears in court either as a witness or as a complainant or accused.

23. Referring to the case in which one Kader Baksh, a duftry, was punished with only three days' imprisonment by

The Honorary Magistrates of the Honorary Bench at Chittagong after having been kept in hajat for ten days, the same paper

observes that gentlemen not having time to regularly and punctually sit on the Benches should not accept Honorary Magistracies. The Magistrate is requested to make an enquiry into the subject of the detention of accused persons in hajat. The Honorary Magistrates seldom come to court of their own motion; entreaties have to be used to bring them out.

24. A Netrakona correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 24th August says

The Netrakona Honorary Bench in the Mymensingh district. that the Netrakona Honorary Bench is fast acquiring a very bad name. The District Magistrate ought to have enquired into the cause of Gopi

Babu's resigning his post. One or two more Honorary Magistrates will probably shortly submit their resignation.

25. A correspondent of the same paper asks the District Judge of Mymen-

Complaints against the Judge's Court Sarishtadar in Mymensingh. singh to inquire why his Sarishtadar had at first reported to him that the Naib Nazir, Babu Kailas Chandra Das, would be content to have extension of service up to March 1897, whilst as a matter of fact

Kailas Babu had asked for extension up to the 12th August. He should also enquire why under Mr. Anderson's order passed on the 17th May last, a copy of the report submitted by the Sarishtadar regarding the case of Prakas Chandra Chaudhuri, Accountant at the Bajitpur Munsifi, has not yet been supplied to that gentleman. The correspondent has heard that though there is no order in the Judge's order-book empowering the Sarishtadar to sign for him, the Sarishtadar often sends letters to Subordinate Judges and Munsifs under his own signature,

26. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 25th August says that Khushan Chandra

A mistake in a jail warrant. Hazra, of Lilgram, was on the 31st July last convicted by the Subdivisional Officer of Katwa,

and sentenced to imprisonment for three weeks. After three weeks the jailor refused to release him. When the jail warrant was produced it was seen that by a mistake it was stated in the jail warrant that the man was to undergo imprisonment for a month. For this mistake the man had to undergo imprisonment for four days more. Who is responsible for this mistake? A similar mistake in writing out a warrant was committed by the Katwa Court some time ago.

27. The *Sahachar* of the 26th August says that, however opposed the

The question of the separation of the judicial and executive functions. Englishman newspaper may be to a separation of the executive and judicial functions, there cannot

be the least doubt that the English people will do their best to remedy the evils resulting from the existing system. Already many Europeans, including some influential Anglo-Indian gentlemen, have resolved to give effect to the proposal which has been made by Mr. Monmohun Ghose. A deputation of these gentlemen will soon wait on the Secretary of State to draw his attention to this proposal. And though it may not be given effect to during Lord George Hamilton's time, there can be no doubt that sooner or later it will be carried out. When the Indians have commenced to secure Englishmen's sympathy, they are sure of the reform at no distant date.

28. The *Hitavadi* of the 28th August learns from the Gaya correspondent

Mr. Holmwood, District Judge of Gaya. of a contemporary the following instance of vagary on the part of the local District Judge,

Mr. Holmwood :—A case having been called, the plaintiff went in search of his pleader. Mr. Holmwood, however, dismissed his case in the meantime. When the plaintiff's pleader came he represented to

SANSODHINI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

CHARU MIHIR.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 25th, 1896.

SAHACHAR,  
Aug. 26th, 1896.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 28th, 1896.

the Judge how matters stood and made an application for a re-trial. The plaintiff was put into the dock, and his pleader asked him—"Where were you when the case was called?" The plaintiff replied—"As soon as *Huzoor* (the Judge) called the case I went to call *Huzoor* (the pleader)." Offended at this, Mr. Holmwood said:—"There is no other *Huzoor* in this district except this Court." The pleader went on questioning the plaintiff while the Judge went on writing his order, and when the plaintiff's deposition ended the Judge announced that the application was rejected. If this is true, Mr. Holmwood is not surely in a sound state of mind.

MHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

29. One Bhagavati Charan Das, of Nator, in the Rajshahi district, writes in the *Mhir-o-Sudhakar* of the 29th August as follows:—

High-handedness of the Joint-Magistrate of Nator.

No one is allowed to come before the Joint-Magistrate when he tries cases. Once he made an amla of the Sukan zamindar who had peeped into the court-room remain standing before him for four hours. He fined a man Rs. 75 for making water in the street. One Hamju Sarkar was fined Rs. 20 for talking loudly outside the cutcherry. The oppressions which are committed by the Joint-Magistrate's servants have also become unbearable. The Joint-Magistrate punishes everybody who opposes them in forcibly taking whatever they like from the bazar. A man had brought a complaint against the Joint-Magistrate's washerman, but he was let off under section 211 of the Criminal Procedure Code in spite of evidence against him. The Joint-Magistrate applies his whip to men's backs when he is out riding.

On the 17th July last the Joint-Magistrate's *khansama* bought 13 fowls in the bazar, and keeping them in the custody of one Rahimdad Khan, who had come down from Darjeeling to purchase fowls, went to make other purchases. One Fazr Saikh, a servant of the zamindar's, also bought six fowls in the same place. Two of Fazr Saikh's fowls having got loose, he caught them with the help of one Saban and brought his fowls home. When about half-an-hour later the Joint-Magistrate's *khansama* returned, Rahimdad pointed out Saban to him and said that by representing himself as the *khansama*'s man, Saban had sent home by another man two out of the 13 fowls which had been left in his custody. The *khansama* immediately took Saban before the Joint Magistrate, who was so angry at hearing the complaint that he would have forthwith hanged Saban if he had the power to do so. He thought over the matter, however, and told the police to make an investigation, or he would himself go to the place of occurrence. The police heard everything from Saban, and failing to get any local evidence saw Fazr and heard what he had to say. But, not getting evidence of theft, it, at last, sent up Fazr and Saban under section 379 of the Penal Code. The Joint-Magistrate made over the case to the Sub-Deputy, who altered the charge to one under section 417, and released the accused on bail of Rs. 400. But the next day he again altered the charge to one under section 379, and, though the accused offered to give evidence of their innocence, ordered them to be detained in *hajat* for 10 days. At the hearing of the case the man from whom the two fowls in question were bought by Fazr identified them as two of the fowls he had sold to Fazr, which had got loose and which Fazr caught with the help of Saban; and other people who had been present on the spot deposed to the two fowls belonging to Fazr, but the Sub-Deputy still convicted the accused and sentenced them to imprisonment; but he kindly wrote:—"Considering that they have already undergone the troubles in *hajat*, the Court directs that each of the accused . . . . be sentenced to undergo only one week's rigorous imprisonment under section 379, Indian Penal Code."

Rahimdad, the witness for the prosecution, said that he had bought no fowl for himself on the day of the occurrence. But a railway employé deposed on behalf of the accused that on the day in question Rahimdad had sent fowls of the weight of 30 seers by rail. Now may it not be that Rahimdad himself had stolen the two fowls which the Joint-Magistrate's *khansama* missed? Fazr and Saban have been acquitted on appeal, but they have not yet got back their fowls, which are reported to have found their way to the Joint-Magistrate's dinner-table.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

Mr. Roe, District Magistrate of  
Muzaffarpur.

30. The *Sanjivani* of the 29th August complains that in cases in which indigo planters or their employés are defendants, Mr. Roe, the District Magistrate of Muzaffarpur, is in the habit of sending them to the indigo

planters themselves for inquiry and report. Let the Lieutenant-Governor and his Chief Secretary judge whether this practice is likely to promote the cause of justice. The Magistrate has also ordered that "all petitions and police cases in which factories and Europeans are concerned as complainants or defendants should be sent to him for orders." It cannot be said whether this order has been passed with a view to protect European defendants. Mr. Roe's conduct shows how the combination of European Magistrates with indigo planters in Bihar has led to miscarriage of justice. The highhandedness of the indigo planters is crushing all vitality out of the Tirhut people. Will they not be saved even by a kind-hearted ruler like Sir Alexander Mackenzie?

31. In reference to an advertisement dated the 11th August last which appeared in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 19th idem by Mr. Maguire, Covenanted Deputy Collector of Howrah, inviting candidates to apply within the

An advertisement by the Deputy Collector of Howrah.  
20th August for the post of peshkar and record-keeper in the Deputy Collector's office, the *Som Prakash* of the 31st August asks what the object of giving such an advertisement may be. When the Deputy Collector signed the advertisement at Howrah on the 11th August, he certainly knew that it would not reach the Bengal Printing Office in time to be published in the issue of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 12th idem, and that it would be published in the next issue of the *Gazette*, that is, the issue of the 19th August. What was his meaning then in telling candidates to apply within the 20th August? Did he want to give the post to a creature of his own? In that case the meaning of the advertisement would be quite clear.

(c)—*Jails.*

32. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 26th August censures the jailor of the Berhampore jail for keeping two sacred bulls tethered in front of the jail premises. It is not

*SOM PRAKASH,*  
Aug. 31st, 1896.

*MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,*  
Aug. 26th, 1896.

A reprehensible act of the jailor of the Berhampore Jail.  
known for what purpose the bulls have been detained; but the jailor, who is a Hindu, ought to know that it is an act of sacrilege in the eye of the Hindu religion, not only to make a sacred bull work, but also to keep it tethered. The jailor has by his act wounded the feelings of the Hindus. He should at once set free these two bulls and other sacred bulls, if any, which may be detained inside the jail premises.

(d)—*Education.*

33. The *Charu Mihir* of the 24th August says that though the Resolution of the Calcutta University, including Bengali as an optional subject in the F.A. and B.A. examinations indicates liberal-mindedness on its part, it will

*CHARU MIHIR,*  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

Bengali in the Calcutta University.  
bring no advantage to the Bengali language. Very few students will read Bengali for the sake of a mere certificate. Bengali should never be allowed to replace Sanskrit as a subject of study in the Calcutta University, but no good will be done so long as Bengali is not made a compulsory subject.

34. Referring to the Resolution passed by the Senate of the Calcutta University, making Bengali an optional subject of study in the F.A. and B.A. examinations, the *Bangavasi* of the 29th August observes that mis-

*BANGAVASI,*  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

Bengali in the Calcutta University.  
guided patriotism may look upon this change as a desirable one, but it does not see that this Resolution will only serve to strike at the root of the cultivation of even that little bit of Sanskrit which is taught in the schools and colleges of Bengal.

35. Referring to the Resolution passed by the Senate of the Calcutta University, making Bengali an optional subject of study in the F.A. and B.A. examinations, the *Sanjivani* of the 29th August observes that few will

*SANJIVANI,*  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

Bengali in the Calcutta University.  
care to study the subject and be examined in it merely for the sake of a certificate. In the F.A. examination History and Logic are regarded as optional subjects of study, but the marks for these subjects are counted. This will not be the case with Bengali. Most of the F.A. candidates appear in the examination in History and Logic. Few will appear in the examination in Bengali.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

36. The same paper asks the Government to create special scholarships for the girls who appear in the vernacular examinations. Special scholarships for girls in the vernacular examinations. In the University examinations there are special scholarships for female candidates; there should, therefore, be special scholarships in the vernacular examinations. Girls cannot be expected to successfully compete with a host of boys, and female education will suffer if encouragement in the shape of special scholarships be not held out to the girls who appear in the vernacular examinations.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

37. The *Bangavasi* of the 29th August has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor calls this proposed tax for water-supply a "permissive tax." What is this "permissive tax" to be like? It will at best be a tax to be imposed by the panchayat or a committee of a dozen or half-a-dozen men of a particular locality for the purpose of removing local grievances and improving local sanitation. In this sense, the Municipal taxes and the Road and Public Works Cesses may be called permissive taxes. But is a "permissive tax" possible in this country? Have the so-called permissive taxes hitherto imposed been legitimately spent for the purposes for which they were imposed? Have they been spent even according to the free and unhampered judgment of those who impose them and are accountable to the people at large for their spending? Has not the Government always interfered with the levying and the spending of these taxes? The question is easily answered. The Government has interfered, is interfering, and will interfere in such matters. We say, therefore, that a permissive tax is not possible in India. We are not fit for such a tax. We cannot maintain its permissive character; the Government does not and cannot allow us to treat such a tax as purely permissive. We do not, therefore, like to be duped or misled by dulcet words. Let the Government treat us plainly and openly. If we must pay the tax, let us plainly know it and let there be no mincing of matters.

Now, the question is—why is such a tax impossible in this country? Why are we not fit for it? The answer is not far to seek. We are a subject people. We are helpless tools in the hands of other persons. We have, generally speaking, no sense of duty. The slave cannot appreciate the value of power. Once in power, he is sure to misuse it and become a tyrant. The sycophant does not know how to exercise power; he cannot feel for others. All that he can do is to faithfully imitate and act under the guidance of other persons. In a sense, we ourselves rule our country. The Deputy Magistrates, the Subordinate Judges, the clerks, the police officers from the Sub-Inspector to the village chaukidar are all principally recruited from among our own countrymen. But still oppression and high-handedness are rife in the country. A Lieutenant-Governor, speaking from his honest conviction, observed that a large percentage of convictions was likely to reduce crime and the convicting Magistrates were entitled to praise. And at once our Deputy Magistrates vied with one another in sending prisoners to jail. Instances of a similar nature might be multiplied. We are at the beck and call of our rulers. We are helpless tools in their hands, and we do their biddings as so many automata. Independence does not and cannot suit us. We are not fit for it. Besides this, we are unable to do anything that can increase the executive power of the country. We have no voice in the administration of the country. We shall never have any control over our finances. Under these circumstances, it must be difficult to prevent a state of things injurious to the people of the country and conducive to the development of executive power. If we can go with the Government so much the better. If we cannot, we should be prepared to suffer manifold inconveniences with patience. It is impossible that we should act freely and independently. Our self-government means serving the Government without pay—either for official favour, or for titles, or for the sake of what we call our honour. We have no power to maintain our rights and privileges and demand from the Government what is due to us. It should also be borne in mind that the village panchayat is uneducated and more or less oppressive. We have to suffer from oppression almost in all respects. We had hitherto

some degree of liberty in social matters, but that liberty too is going to be taken away from us. A generous Government ought not in this way to drive the thin end of the wedge into our social system. The Government knows our nature very well, and we too know it quite as well as the Government. The regret is that we still allow ourselves to be blindly led by others. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a just and generous man. We pray him not to deceive us, fools as we are, with a Dehli *laddu*, worthless as a sweetmeat, but very alluring in appearance.

It is, then, quite clear that we want the education, the power, the force of character and the required assistance from the Government to act, so to speak, as apprentice rulers. The Government has taken advantage of our ignorance and foolishness and is getting many things done by us without paying for our services in any shape. But we, even we are not prepared to oppress and ill-treat our countrymen for the purpose of serving the Government. Let the tax be called "coercive" instead of "permissive." Let the Government's policy be fair and aboveboard.

38. The same paper observes that the village people will thank their stars if municipal administration be confined to towns. It is downright tyranny to impose latrine-tax in almost depopulated villages.

Latrine-tax in villages. Stars if municipal administration be confined to towns. It is downright tyranny to impose latrine-tax in almost depopulated villages. Latrine-tax has been lately imposed in Halisahar and Barasat, in the 24-Parganas district. Bengal villages are inhabited mostly by widows and childless women. The males are generally daily passengers. There is almost no need of latrines in these places, yet latrine-tax is imposed in these villages for the convenience of a handful of persons. Even people who have no latrines will have to pay the tax, while the *mehtar* service in these places is so unsatisfactory that the privies will not be regularly worked. This, then, is the fruit of Local Self-Government which is so much prized by the Babus.

39. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 30th August says that in reply to Mr. A. M. Bose's interpellation on the subject of the apportionment of the cost of collecting the Road and Public Works cesses, Mr. Risley said that, in consideration

The cost of collecting the Road and Public Works cesses.

of the fact that Government officers had to work hard for the realisation of the road cess, it had been settled that two-thirds of the total charges for collecting the two cesses should be charged to the Road Cess Fund and one-third only to the Public Works Cess Fund. As a matter of fact, Government officers have not to work so hard for the realisation of the road cess as to justify Government in charging two-thirds of the total cost of collection to the Road Cess Fund, and the labour that Government officers have to bestow on the collection of that cess is, moreover, more than remunerated by the sale of court-fee stamps required for making objections. But Government does not contribute even that part of the total cost which, Mr. Risley says, it does. It appears from Government's own accounts that the total charges of collection in 1894-95 amounted to Rs. 2,87,186, a third part of which amounts to Rs. 95,729. But Government contributed only Rs. 44,500—the same amount, that is, which was paid in 1879-80, when the total cost of collection amounted to only Rs. 1,61,041. The proceeds of the Public Works cess are nearly double of the proceeds of the road cess. There is therefore no reason why Government should not pay half of the total cost of collection. Even if Government paid a third part of the cost of collection, the District Boards would obtain thirty or forty thousand rupees more in the year. Mr. Risley has, however, held out hopes of a more equitable apportionment of the cost. It seems, therefore, that Government will henceforth contribute one-third of the total cost, if not half. But will Government restore to the District Boards the many lakhs which it has already unjustly taken, and thereby enable them to remove water scarcity?

40. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 30th August makes the following complaints against the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality:

- (1) The roads in the Chorghata mahalla are in a most deplorable condition, and are almost impassable to men and vehicles.
- (2) The drains have not been cleansed for a long time.
- (3) Road-side jungle being never cleared, big trees have grown on the drains.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Aug. 30th, 1896.

CHINSURA VARTA-  
VAHA,  
Aug. 30th, 1896.

(4) Night-soil is removed at intervals of several days and in such a careless and perfunctory manner as seriously to injure the public health. A resident of Moghulpur, in the Barabazar mahalla, says that his privy was cleansed only three times in the course of the past two months, and that after repeated requests had been made to the amin and the overseer.

*(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

ULUBARIA DARPAN,  
Aug. 16th, 1896.

41. The *Ulubaria Darpan* of the 16th August draws the attention of the Executive Engineer of the Cossye Division to the serious inconvenience which is suffered by those

who have to cross the Ulubaria-Midnapore Canal at the ferry ghat near Tinpukur. The banks of the canal being steep, people have to jump down a precipice of five to six cubits in order to get into the boat, and accidents very frequently occur in this season. The inconvenience will be completely removed if the banks at the ghat are cut into the shape of stairs at a cost of two to three rupees only. The attention of the overseer and the engineer was drawn to the grievance, but without effect.

42. The *Sanjivani* of the 29th August complains that great inconvenience is felt by third class passengers on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, Behar Section. The trains

running on these lines have few third class carriages attached to them, and most of the passengers have to travel in goods cars. Many have to postpone their journey, and the ignorant and uneducated have not often to pay for tickets which become useless on account of the delay in making the journey.

*(h)—General.*

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Aug. 26th, 1896.

43. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 26th August says that everybody in Berhampore has been disgusted at the conduct of Babu Durga Kanta Chaudhuri, Sub-Registrar of the place. Lately he reported to the Magistrate

that a mukhtar, named Kulada Prasad Rai, ought not to be allowed to practise. But the Magistrate not concurring with him, he has forbidden Kulada Babu to enter the sub registry office. Is the sub-registry office a public office, or a private office belonging to Durga Kanta Babu?

44. Referring to the notification published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 26th August, restricting the grant of passes for the use and sale of firearms in Backergunge, the

*Bangavasi* of the 29th August observes that by virtue of this notification the people of that district will be prevented from using firearms from the 1st September. Now, what will be done with the firearms which will be thus rendered useless? Will they be sold or forfeited to the Government? It is doubtful whether the notification will put an end to murder by firearms in the Backergunge district, but that it will increase police oppression in some cases is almost certain.

45. The same paper writes as follows:—

Income-tax oppression.

When the income-tax was imposed for the second time, the Governor-General assured the

people that every care would be taken to prevent oppression in connection with its collection. The people placed implicit faith in the Viceroy's assurance, but that assurance is now going to prove useless. Income-tax oppression has become rife in most parts of Bengal. It is not a rare spectacle to see the income of a man assessed at Rs. 500, while his real income is only half the amount. The law, of course, provides for appeal to the Collector against the decision of the assessor, but few can afford to undergo the trouble and expense of an appeal. A correspondent writes to us, complaining that income-tax is being levied on *lakhiraj* lands in Ranaghat.

46. The Musalman residents of Old Malda, writing in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 29th August, give an account of

Certain prayers of the Musalmans of Old Malda.

the Divisional Commissioner's recent visit to their town with the object of prescribing the places where the Musalmans should carry on their religious practices, and thanks that officer

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

for the advice he gave to both Hindus and Musalmans to make up their quarrels. The correspondents cannot say through whose machinations the attempts of the Magistrate to bring about a composition of the late case failed. The following prayers are made to the authorities by the correspondents:—

(1) The Inspector-General of Police should transfer Babu Yadav Chandra Deb from Malda, because it was that officer who bade the Hindus ring bells and blow conch-shells on the occasion of the late Muharram, expressed a determination to have cow-slaughter abolished in Old Malda and excited the Hindus. A European District Superintendent of Police should be appointed in Malda.

(2) As the proportion of Hindu and Musalman residents in Old Malda is almost equal, but there is not a single Musalman Commissioner in the Municipality, the Divisional Commissioner should appoint Dr. Kazi Ajhar Ahmad, Syed Wahed Ali, daroga of the place, and Abdul Gani Khan as Municipal Commissioners. If he does not see fit to make these appointments, the Municipality should be abolished, or confined to the Hindu quarter alone. There are some mean-minded men in the municipal office who should be expelled, and impartial men should be appointed in their place.

(3) The Magistrate should transfer the present Hindu Sub-Inspector of police and bring in a Musalman. It was the Sub-Inspector, Babu Yadav Chandra Chatterji, who excited a quarrel during the *Bakr-Id*. The Musalmans are an eye-sore to him. Owing to some differences with him, he has threatened to get Dr. Kazi Ajhar Ahmad into trouble, with which object he says he has, with the District Superintendent's permission, got up a case against him.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

47. The *Gaya Punch* of the 24th August is glad that the Government of

Proposed extension of Act I (B.C.) of 1876 to Bihar. Bengal has proposed to extend Act I (B.C.) of 1876 to Bihar, giving the Musalmans of that province the option of registering their marriages and divorces.

*GAYA PUNCH,*  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

Non-registration of marriages and divorces seriously inconveniences parties in proving the correct amount of the dowry in dowry suits. And not unoften, in such suits, marriage and divorce are altogether denied. The Act also relieves the Musalmans of liability to incur heavy costs in getting their marriage deeds duly stamped and registered. The registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces ought to be made compulsory instead of being left optional with the parties as it is under the existing Act.

48. The *Charu Mihir* of the 24th August writes as follows:—

Exercise of the right of interpellation by native non-official members. Sir Alexander Mackenzie did not show the least impatience on receiving so many as five addresses in Mymensingh. His Honour said that

Mymensingh was a large district, and it was perfectly natural that it should require five addresses to detail its grievances to him. Bengal is a large province; and it should not surprise anybody if the members of the Bengal Council have to put a very large number of questions to Government to inform it of the people's wants and grievances, and to draw its attention to official wrong-doing. But the number of interpellations can be reduced if the members act in consultation with each other. It is not bad to ask many questions, but friends as well as foes may well be annoyed to see the time of the Council wasted in frivolous debates.

The members elected by the people generally base their questions on information supplied by the press. This circumstance has given a new life to the native press, and has led it to take greater pains in finding out the wants and grievances of the country. This is one cause of the vast increase which has taken place of late in the number of questions put by the native non-official members.

49. Referring to Mr. Gladstone's interpellation in the Bengal Legislative Council regarding the bad condition of the roads in Garden Reach, the *Sanjivani* of the 29th August observes that Mr. Gladstone is the Manager of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot and Company in Garden Reach, and this is the reason why the said interpellation was made. It is most likely that the Government will call upon the South

*CHARU MIHIR,*  
Aug. 24th, 1896.

*SANJIVANI,*  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

Suburban Municipality to repair the Garden Reach roads. But should interpellations even about the bad condition of roads be made in the Legislative Council? The Anglo-Indian papers are in the habit of ridiculing the native members for their numerous questions in the Council. They are, however, praising Mr. Gladstone for his frivolous question. This is journalistic impartiality.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

SAHACHAR,  
Aug. 26th, 1896.

50. The *Sahachar* of the 26th August says that Government very probably published the Jhalwar blue-book in the belief that it would pacify the public mind by convincing it of the Maharaja's guilt. But as a matter of fact the blue-book read with care will only confirm the public belief that the Maharaja committed no offence which could justify his deposition. If the object of the Foreign Office in India in publishing the Jhalwar papers was to throw dust in the eyes of the public, then that office has only deceived itself. For, a perusal of the papers will convince the public that the Maharaja was deposed and disgraced solely because he had incurred the displeasure of the Political Agent in his State and of the Governor-General's Agent for some trifling cause. The deposition of Zalim Singh, moreover, clearly proves that a native prince is safe so long as he can keep the Political Agent satisfied, but that the moment he incurs the displeasure of that functionary, he runs the risk of getting into trouble!

Everybody will admit that a native prince ought to take the advice of the Political Agent in matters relating to his State and to treat him with due respect as the English Government's representative in his court, and that on the other hand the Political Agent ought to show that respect to a native prince which is due to a descendant of a royal dynasty. The troubles which from time to time arise in the Native States are due not so much to any wrong act committed by the princes of those States as to something wrong or improper done by the Political Agents. The princes, as a rule, show proper respect to the Political Agents and act according to their advice when it is given in a friendly spirit. But the Political Agents generally forget their position, and, placed in the midst of natives alone, have their heads completely turned. They consider themselves monarchs of all they survey, and not only become meddlesome, but cannot bear the slightest opposition. If a native prince frets at the meddlesomeness of a Political Officer and loses patience with him, he runs the risk of being reported to the authorities. The Foreign Office gives credence to every word of the Political Agent, but not to one word of the ruler of a State. This is the way in which native princes are brought into trouble, and Zalim Singh came to be deposed by an exactly similar succession of events. His offence was that he displayed a little independence. He did not like the meddlesomeness of his Political Agent; and this led to his temporary removal from his throne some years after he had been installed by Lord Ripon amidst a shower of encomiums. In 1892 he was, however, restored to power. But immediately after that reports began to be made against him. This time his chief offence was that he appointed one Babu Parbati Charan Chatterji as the Chief Engineer of his State against the wish of the Political Agent. Babu Parbati Charan is a graduate of the Roorkee College and an efficient Engineer. It is true that as a pleader of the Allahabad High Court he committed some offence and was debarred. But the Privy Council permitted him to resume practice after a suspension of two or three years. This decision of the Privy Council clearly means that Parbati Babu's offence was not of a very serious nature. But be that as it may, what had his offence as a lawyer to do with his qualifications as an Engineer, or his employment in the capacity of an Engineer by the Maharaja of Jhalwar? The Maharaja, moreover, was not at all aware of the Allahabad incident when he appointed Parbati Babu in his service.

The Jhalwar blue-book has more alarmed and dissatisfied the public than reassured them. If the Native Princes are to be treated as mere toys in the hands of Political Agents, they ought to be relieved of the burden of governing their States and made mere pensioners of Government.

## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

51. The *Sansodhini* of the 21st August says that prices are ruling very high in Chittagong. In the southern part of the Chances of scarcity in Chittagong. district, rice and paddy are very scarce, and people are living on one meal a day. The District Board should hold itself ready to meet a scarcity. Fortunately, there have been some showers lately.

SANSODHINI,  
Aug. 21st, 1896.

52. The *Charu Mihir* of the 24th August complains of scanty rainfall in the Mymensingh district. In most places the *uman* paddy could not be sown for want of rain; in other places, where it was sown, the plants have withered away. Rivers, canals and ponds received some supply in the early part of the season, but the subsequent holding over of the rains has made them as shallow as they ordinarily are in the winter. The jute harvest, too, has been very poor, and the little that has grown cannot be reaped for want of water to steep it. Rice is selling at Rs. 5 per maund, and cannot be had everywhere even at that price. The poor are already suffering. The prospects are indeed exceedingly gloomy for the district.

53. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 25th August writes as follows:—

*Distress in Burdwan.* Suspicion has passed into certainty. Scarcity has already broken out in the midst of a certain section of cultivators in Burdwan, whose only source of livelihood is the tilling of a few bighas of land, or working in the fields of other persons. Last year they could reap no harvest, and this year, too, they could not cultivate their lands for want of rain. In other years they lived by agricultural labour, but this year cultivation being very unsatisfactory, on account of the want of rain, there is no demand for such labour, and the suffering of the people is consequently very great. It is true that rice is not yet selling at a famine price, but these people have no money and they are not in a position to buy rice. It is no wonder, then, that most of these people are not getting two full meals a day, and many of them are not even getting one full meal every day. God alone knows what is yet in store for them.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 25th, 1896.

A correspondent writes to us that in the villages of Giohgram, Okalsa, Jamsha, Kuarha, Baichi, Sargram, Puini, Hé, Kshirgram and Karul within the jurisdiction of Manteswar, thana, in the Burdwan district, there was a failure, of crops last year, and this year, too, the prospects of the crops are extremely gloomy. In Giohgram scarcity of water has been added to scarcity of food. The wells which were sunk in dried-up tanks have all dried up and there is water in only one tank, which is being used by the whole village. As for scarcity of food, it is being very keenly felt by the people. Starvation has reduced many to bare skeletons, and many have fled from their homes, leaving their wives and children completely helpless. The wife of one Madhu Pal has, in despair, fled to Calcutta, leaving her two children behind who are being kindly taken care of by Kalidas Chakravarti, a kind-hearted villager. Madhu Pal is living by begging. Mamin Shaikh, his wife and three children are being actually half-starved. They will die if relief does not soon come to them. Tofel Shaikh, his two children, wife and mother-in-law are in an equally miserable condition. Trailokya Chaudhuri is giving advances of corn to the starving villages, but this help is not quite sufficient for the purpose. There is no demand for labour. The condition of poor middle class men is very miserable.

The following people are sure to die if they get no help within 15 days:—

1. Muchi Bagdi, Trailokya Bagdi, Jadu Bagdi, wife of Mekua Bagdi, Mahendra Bagdi, Dwarik Bagdi, Bireswar Bagdi, Saday Bagdi, Dayal Bagdi, Bipin Bagdi, Pratap Bagdi, Ramlal Bagdi, Sagar Bagdi, Tapun Bagdini, Kunja Bagdi, Ramlal Bagdi's mother, Jadu Bagdi's wife, Behari Bagdi, Bidhu Bagdini, Ketu Bagdini, Kshema Bagdini, Ahladi Bagdini, &c., &c.
2. Kamal Bauri, Pratab Bauri, Rakhal Bauri's wife and children, Kedar Bauri, Ramdas Barui, &c., &c.
3. Lutu Dom, Hari Dom, Akul Kotal's mother, Pandit Dom, Ranglal Kotal, &c., &c.

4. Mamin Shaikh, Tofel Shaikh's wife, children and mother-in-law, Elahi Shaikh, Dabil Shaikh, Acchir Shaikh, Babu Shaikh, Laku Shaikh, Montaj Shaikh, Ayjardi Shaikh, &c., &c.

5. Lal Harhi, Makhan Harhi, Sasi Harhi, Ramdas Harhi, Banka Bagdi, Atal Bagdi, Radhe Vaishnavi, &c., &c.

6. Sasi Muchi, Krishna Muchi, Badal Muchi, Lal Muchi, Kailas Muchi's wife and son, Pratap Muchi, Dina Muchi, Jadu Muchi, Mayi Muchi; Rasik Muchi, &c., &c.

7. Madhu Pal, Hari Khainch, Bhusan Dutta, Dwarik Das, Panchanan Das, Radhika Das, Atal Koar, Dwarik Rai, Hiralal Rai, Bishan Pal, Makhan Pal, Dwarik Pal, Hari Tanti, Nader Chand Acharyya, Hari Mistry, Madhav Sutar's wife, Suryya Mistry, Ras Suturni, Amulya Bayen, Nabin Ghosh, Atal Ghosh, Prem Mandal, Ramchand Ghosh, Raghunath Ghosh, Kshar Ghosh, Nangheswar Metur, Janaki Rai, &c., &c.

HINDU RANJIK,  
Aug. 26th, 1896.

54. A correspondent of the *Hindu Ranjika* of the 26th August complains of late and scanty rainfall in the Jalpaiguri district. Jute cannot be steeped for want of water, and the *aman* crop has not at all been sown.

People are in perfect despair.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Aug. 26th, 1896

55. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 26th August says that reports are reaching from various parts of the province about Prospects of the crops gloomy. the gloomy prospects of both the *aus* and *aman* crops. The two together will scarcely yield a two-anna return. Neither, considering the scanty rainfall and the consequent want of deposit of loam on the soil, can the *rabi* crop be expected to be successful. A severe famine seems therefore to be in store for the people, unless the poor harvest which is gathered is prevented from passing out of the country. Government should prohibit the export of rice and paddy during the present year, and see that the raiyats do not sell their whole stock of paddy in order to pay off the zamindar and the money-lender. If such timely steps are not taken, a severe famine will certainly break out, and then a few thousand rupees spent by Government or the opening of a few relief works will do little good.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

56. The *Sanjivani* of the 29th August reports that scarcity has broken out in Nalitabari in the Mymensingh district. The half-starved peasantry are filling the sky with their cry for food. The prospects of the jute and *aus* crops are gloomy, and the *aman* crop has failed. Starvation has led to increase of crime. The public peace is being frequently disturbed. Bands of thieves and dacoits are ravaging the whole village. Within a week two dacoities have been committed in the houses of two well-to-do persons. The dacoits carried away property worth about three thousand rupees and cruelly tortured the inmates of the houses. One man was so badly beaten that he succumbed to his injuries in the Jamalpur hospital. The people have been thrown into a state of consternation. The local police has not yet been able to trace the offenders.

SANJIVANI.

57. The same paper reports that the prospects of the crops in Idilpur in the Pabna district are not hopeful. Scarcity of water prevails. Jute is drying up and the *aus* and *aman* crops have failed. The rice market is rising. In Fenny, in the Noakhali district, the state of things is equally miserable. The *sati* crop has failed. Prices of rice are rising. Coarse rice is selling at 2 and 3 rupees per maund. The prospects of the crops are gloomy in Dacca. The outturn will not exceed eight annas. Coarse rice is selling at 11 seers per rupee. The jute crop is hopeful.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

58. Correspondents of the *Bangavasi* of the 29th August complain of scarcity in several parts of Bengal and Assam. The impending scarcity. In Ujanchar in the Tippera district the rice plants are drying up for want of water to feed them. There is want of rain in Amsatta in the Bogra district. Fields are being parched up and even the seeds are drying up. There is scarcity in Palgram in the Chittagong district. Crops have failed. Husked rice is selling at 8 seers and unhusked rice at 16 seers per rupee. The prospects of the *aman* crop are gloomy in Lanka in Assam. In Kamarali in the Chittagong district cultivation is at a standstill. Rice is selling at seven or eight seers per rupee. Many are going without two meals

a day. Scarcity is impending in Kapasia in the Dacca district. Want of water is keenly felt. Even the Brahmaputra has dried up. The *aus* crop was a failure. Most people are not getting two meals a day. The prospects of crops are very bad in Bhowal in the same district. There has been a two-anna crop of jute and *aus* rice. The *aman* crop is going to be destroyed for want of rain. Rice is selling at Rs. 4 and Rs. 4-4 per maund and unhusked rice at 12 or 13 seers per rupee. Both the *aus* and *aman* crops have failed in Lokenathpur in the Nadia district. Rice is selling at 11 or 12 seers per rupee. The prospects of jute and *aus* and *aman* rice crops are extremely miserable in Bilchalan in the Rajshahi district. Rice is selling at *kanchi* 16 seers per rupee.

59. A correspondent of the *Saraswat Patra* of the 29th August says that there is severe distress at Hansail in the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district. At the last *hat* paddy sold at 13 to 14 seers per rupee and rice at 8 seers per rupee. The *aman* crop is drying for want of rain.

60. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* of the 30th August says that the ripening of the *aus* crop has considerably mitigated the scarcity in Hatia. The price of rice has fallen to Rs. 3 or Rs. 2 and 12 annas per maund. Those who could scarcely obtain one meal in the day can now afford two meals.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

61. The *Hitavadi* of the 28th August writes as follows:—

The Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerji made several interpellations regarding the mismanagement of Hindu devottar property; but our kind Government, we know not why, declined to make any enquiry in the matter. Government declined to interfere probably because it has no idea of the extent to which such mismanagement prevails. It is not possible to speak of all Hindu shrines at one and the same time. We will, therefore, confine ourselves to-day to a description of the mismanagement that prevails at the shrines of Chandranath, Barabakunda and Lavanaksha in the Chittagong district. We hope that the details of mismanagement of every shrine, in which the state of things is not as it should be, will be brought to the notice of Government by the local public. If that is done, Government may be induced to provide a remedy for the evil.

If Hindu places of pilgrimage are to be made abodes of religious reverence and tranquillity, greedy, selfish, oppressive and luxurious mohunts and sebayets must be ousted therefrom. The Hindu community seeks the assistance of Government in this matter because it has no power to interfere itself.

The shrines of Chandranath, Barabakunda, Lavanaksha, Sitakunda, Kanchannath, Adinath, Balakdas's *akhra* (monastery), Badirmastan, &c., are ruled over by mohunts. All these shrines have immense endowments.

From the days of the Nawabs many rich men have made endowments for the worship of gods and for the support of Brahmans and mendicants. These endowments, as will appear from the deeds creating them, are not alienable; nor can their income be appropriated for other than religious purposes. That such are the conditions attached to the endowment for the benefit of the shrine of Sitakunda will appear from the Persian document on behalf of Chaingir, dated the 22nd and 29th May 1777.

The shrine of Chandranath has a rent-roll of Rs. 4,000, but the actual collection is not known. The muhunt seems to be a little indifferent to the realisation of rent. But the average realisation for any three years is not less than Rs. 12,000.

The shrine of Barabakunda is said to have a rental of Rs. 2,000. Here rent is not allowed to fall into arrears. The average realisation for three years is Rs. 6,000.

The shrine of Lavanaksha has a rent-roll of Rs. 400. Here Rs. 1,200 has been found to be realised in three years.

At Chandranath the muhunt realises from each intending pilgrim a fee of one rupee and two annas for a ticket of admission. It appears from the *mela*

*SARASWAT PATRA,*  
Aug. 29th, 1896.

*DACCA PRAKASH,*  
Aug. 30th, 1896.

*HITAVADI,*  
Aug. 28th, 1896.

reports that from 1300 B.S. to 1303 B.S., 19,349 pilgrims have visited the shrine on the occasion of the *Sivaratri mela* alone. There are besides seven other *melas*, more or less important, in the year, and taking the number of pilgrims on these occasions taken together to be 5,000 every year, we have 15,000 more pilgrims in every three years. The number of pilgrims visiting on the occasion of the *Sivaratri mela*, given above, includes only those who stay at Sitakunda, and not those who stay at Lavanaksha or Barabakunda. The mohunt must have, therefore, realised from pilgrims at least 36 thousand rupees during the last three years. Besides this, there are voluntary offerings amounting to not less than Rs. 500 in the year.

The realisation from pilgrims at Barabakunda is equal to that at Chandranath, and the mohunts at this shrine are uneducated boys.

The realisation from pilgrims does not amount to much at Lavanaksha, for many pilgrims do not visit that shrine. The oppression of pilgrims at that shrine is far less. The price fixed for tickets is 8 annas; but pilgrims often get them at their own prices. The average realisation from each pilgrim is probably 4 annas. During the last three years Rs. 8,000 must have been realised from pilgrims at this shrine.

Thus the mohunt of Chandranath has obtained during the last three years Rs. 36,000 by the sale of tickets, Rs. 1,500 from the voluntary offerings of pilgrims, and Rs. 12,000 from the devottar property. His total income during that period, therefore, amounts to nearly Rs. 50,000, which gives an annual average of Rs. 17,000.

The total income of the mohunt of Barabakunda during the same period amounts to Rs. 42,000, which gives an annual average of Rs. 14,000.

The mahant of Lavanaksha also has obtained during the same period 12,000 rupees, which gives an annual average of 4,000 rupees.

But has anybody ever enquired what use is made of all this money?

#### 62. The Sanjivani of the 29th August has the following :—

The Hon'ble Surendranath Banerji playing into the hands of the officials. Many serious charges of a public nature have been brought against the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerji.

(1) The first serious charge against him is that he has secretly given Mr. Risley his promise to support the Bengal Municipal Act Amendment Bill.

(2) The second charge against him is that he has promised to Mr. Risley to oppose the Hon'ble Babu Guru Prasad Sen.

(3) The third charge against him is that at the request of Mr. Risley he himself brought forward a resolution with the sole object of defeating the resolution moved by another Hon'ble Member.

In our opinion it is a great offence on the part of a President of the Indian National Congress to enter into a league with the officials and give them his promise to oppose the elected native members of the Legislative Council. Surendra Babu should be put on his trial, and it should be determined whether he is guilty or not. We ask Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter, Mr. W. C. Bonnerji, Mr. Monmohun Ghosh, Babu Narendranath Sen, Babu Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Mr. A. M. Bose to try Babu Surendranath Banerji. And let us hope that Babu Surendranath Banerji will himself agree to submit to a trial in order to clear his conduct in the eye of the public.

#### 63. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* of the 30th August says that

The Sherpur zamindar sabha's address to the Lieutenant-Governor.

the address which Rai Radhaballabha Chaudhuri Bahadur professed to present to the Lieutenant-Governor at Mymensingh on behalf of the Sherpur zamindar sabha was never adopted at any meeting of that association; nay, the question of presenting His Honour with an address was not so much as discussed by that body. Sherpur had also no occasion to present an address. It was no common impudence in the Rai Bahadur to state, probably in the hope of obtaining higher honours from Government, in his address that the people would gladly pay the proposed water-tax, when they as a matter of fact strongly object to it.

## ASSAM PAPERS.

64. The *Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi* for the 2nd fortnight of Sravan takes exception to the form in which section 26 of the

The new cattle-trespass rule in Cattle-Trespass Act has been applied to Sylhet by the Chief Commissioner of Assam. The section, as

it originally stood, provided that if the owner or keeper of any pig allowed it, through negligence or otherwise, to do damage to crops on any field or to the public, he was liable to a fine not exceeding 10 rupees. The Chief Commissioner has now extended this provision to the owners of all animals, and enhanced the maximum limit of fine to 50 rupees. The income of the Sylhet Municipality from cattle-pounds has diminished, and this means that there are now fewer cases of cattle-trespass than before. Where was then the need of so severe an amendment of the existing provision? Again, as cattle impounded at Sylhet are found to be mostly cows, it is the owners of these animals who will suffer most from the operation of the new rule. Many people in Sylhet, rich and poor, keep cows, and any of them will now be fined 50 rupees if his cow happens to stray into a public street.

PARIDARSHAK-O-SRIHATTAVASI,  
for the second fortnight of Sravan, 1896,  
(B.S.)

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 5th September, 1896.*

